(MINORITY AFFAIRS)

To: John Spencer, Chairman of the Administration Committee

cc: Deans Wonnacott and Lindholm
President Robison

From: Arnold McKinney

Re: Retention of Minority Students

Date: December 27, 1976

A matter that I am particularly concerned about is the retention of minority students who have academic problems. This matter is of current concern because the Administration Committee will be meeting in the near future to discuss appeals from academic failures for immediate readmission, and because I am not sure where you and the other deans stand on the issue.

In general I think that the flunk out of a first term freshman should be an extremely rare occurence. The adjustment to college life and the brevity of the term makes me think that a second chance should be normal practice. There are three categories of students that I think should automatically (with due process by the Administration Committee) be readmitted for the following term:

1. minority group students with poor academic preparation
2. athletes with poor academic preparation
3. "Special Admits" (i.e. legacies) with poor academic preparation

The College makes a commitment to these students for a variety of political, social, and economic reasons. I do not think that this commitment can be honored if the students are flunked out of school after one term. The College knew at the time of admission that it would be very likely that these students would have academic, as well as social problems. Most of my concern is about categories 1 and 2. The students in category 3 generally have had a great deal more to fall back on when their problems arise.

If it can be shown that these students have demonstrated massive non-effort I think it is then appropriate not to grant them immediate readmission. If an effort is being made by the students, I think it is imperative that the student be readmitted upon his request.

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